

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 /090 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/ WE: GHSHEINBAUM: VE

6/28/73 EXT 20718

APPROVED BY S/ S - DMILLER

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P - MR. BARBOUR

EUR: GSSPRINGSTEEN

P - MR. BARBOUR

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P 291844 Z JUN 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

WHITE HOUSE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 128098

WHITE HOUSE PASS SAN CLEMENTE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XT, BE

SUBJ: DAVIGNON COMMENTS ON US- EUROPE RELATIONS

REF: BRUSSELS 3383

1. SUMMARY. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS JUNE 27 WITH UNDER SECRETARY PORTER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL, DAVIGNON ( DIR- GEN FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF BELGIAN MFA) LAID HEAVY STRESS ON FRENCH ROLE IN US- EUROPEAN RELATIONS AND U. S. POSTURE IN DEALING WITH FRENCH. DAVIGNON FELT THAT EC HAD MADE SOME PROGRESS ON EC NEGOTIATING MANDATE FOR UPCOMING  
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TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, PARTICULARLY THAT EC COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 4-5 LEFT DOOR OPEN FOR MODIFICATION OF EC POSITION IN LIGHT OF SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATING REALITIES, TO WHICH FRENCH ASSENTED. ON MBFR, HE CAUTIONED AGAINST TOO EAGER ACCEPTANCE OF SOVIET PROPOSALS BUT HE ASSURED UNDER SECRETARY THAT BELGIAN REPRESENTATION AT OCTOBER MBFR TALKS WILL BE PERMANENT AND MORE STABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING JUNE 27 SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS WITH UNDER SECRETARY PORTER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL, DAVIGNON REITERATED HIS VIEWS ( BRUSSELS 3383) THAT U. S. DEALING WITH FRENCH MAY UNDERMINE ROLE OF OTHER EIGHT IN EC IN ACHIEVING US- EUROPEAN COMMON OBJECTIVES. DAVIGNON STATED THAT WESTERN EUROPEANS VALUE HIGHLY GOOD US- FRENCH RELATIONS, BUT THEY DO NOT WELCOME IDEA THAT FRANCE HAS BEEN SELECTED BY U. S. AS KEY IN US- EUROPEAN RELATIONS.

3. UNDER SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT IT WAS NOT U. S. INTENTION TO MAKE FRANCE THE KEY BUT FRANCE OCCUPIES EXTREMELY IMPORTANT POSITION IN EUROPE, ALTHOUGH IT HARDLY CAN REPRESENT ALL EUROPEANS. DAVIGNON THEN POINTED OUT OTHERS' FRUSTRATIONS IN DEALING WITH FRANCE WITHIN EC, SINCE JOBERT COMES TO EC MEETINGS BUT SAYS THAT HE CANNOT AGREE TO DEFINITIVE MEASURES BECAUSE HE IS ABOUT TO MEET AGAIN WITH AMERICANS.

4. DAVIGNON APOLOGIZED FOR HIS FRANK REMARKS, BUT SAID THAT OTHER EC MEMBERS HAVE TWO OBJECTIVES: ( A) AN OVERALL EUROPEAN POSITION RE US- EUROPEAN RELATIONS, AND ( B) TO GET FRANCE TO DISCUSS FORTHRIGHTLY WITH THE EIGHT WHATEVER PROBLEMS THERE MAY BE. THE FRENCH ARGUE TO OTHER EC MEMBERS THAT THE STATUS QUO IS HARDLY DISADVANTAGEOUS; WHILE THEY HAVE SERIOUS DIFFERENCES WITH U. S., THEY STILL HAVE GOOD RELATIONS. HE RECOGNIZED OUR NEED TO CAJOLE FRENCH BUT THIS, HE SAID, SHOULD NOT BE CENTRAL PART OF OUR POLICY TOWARD EUROPE.

5. UNDER SECRETARY SAID THAT WE MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE GOOD EFFECT ON FRENCH ATTITUDES, BUT WE ARE TRYING TO DIMINISH THEIR RELUCTANCE TO BUILD UP US- EC RELATIONSHIP. DAVIGNON RESPONDED THAT HE AGREED WITH OUR TACTICS, BUT ADDED THAT

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QUESTION IS ONE OF PROPORTION. THE OTHER EC MEMBERS, WHO HE SAID ARE LOSING THEIR LEVERAGE ON FRENCH, DO NOT EXPECT EQUAL TREATMENT, BUT FRENCH ARE PREVENTING THEM FROM DOING WHAT THEY WANT. IT IS NOT ONLY WITH REGARD TO PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO EUROPE, HE CONTINUED, BUT WHAT COMES AFTERWARD. IF A FIRM US- EC RELATIONSHIP IS NOT ESTABLISHED, IT IS HARD TO SAY WHAT FUTURE WILL BE FOR US- EC RELATIONS. IN

CLOSING ON THIS SUBJECT WITH UNDER SECRETARY, DAVIGNON STRESSED AMBIVALENT FRENCH ATTITUDE ON US- EUROPEAN RELATIONS: FRENCH TELL OTHER EIGHT THAT THEY ( FRENCH) CANNOT AGREE TO US- EUROPEAN SUMMIT BECAUSE EIGHT CANNOT AGREE AMONG THEMSELVES ON RELATIONS WITH U. S.; THEN FRENCH REFUSE TO TALK WITH OTHER EIGHT ABOUT RELATIONS WITH U. S.

6. WITH STOESSEL, DAVIGNON STRESSED SAME LINE AS FOREGOING, ADDING THAT FRENCH AGREEMENT TO STUDY THE PROBLEM IN NATO DOES NOTHING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF US- EC RELATIONS.

7. DAVIGNON ALSO STRESSED NEED FOR PRESIDENT NIXON TO ENGAGE EUROPEAN LEADERS IN MULTILATERAL POLITICAL DISCUSSION DURING HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP. HE NOTED THAT EC COUNCIL, EXCEPT FOR DANES WHO WILL CHAIR COUNCIL BEGINNING JULY 1, CONSISTS OF FOREIGN MINISTERS, SO THAT FRENCH CANNOT PREVENT SUCH TYPE OF DISCUSSION. SOME FRENCH

DISTRUST ON SPECIFIC GATT AND NATO PROBLEMS, DAVIGNON CONTINUED, HAS BEEN DISPELLED, SO IT IS INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR FRENCH TO PREVENT DEVELOPMENT OF POSITIONS IN VARIOUS AREAS, PARTICULARLY US- EC RELATIONS.

8. STOESSEL OBSERVED THAT FRENCH APPEAR TO BE ISOLATED WITHIN THE EC AND ASKED DAVIGNON IF FRENCH FEEL IT. DAVIGNON REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY, AND SAID THAT THE FRENCH DISLIKE IT AND AS NEVER BEFORE. HE NOTED THAT THE JUNE 4 EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING WAS BITTER AT TIMES, AND JOBERT IS LOOKING FOR THE OTHERS TO PLAY UP TO THE FRENCH.

9. RE EC NEGOTIATING MANDATE, DAVIGNON SAID THAT EC DECISION APPEARS TO BE MORE LIKE WHAT COMMISSION WAS SEEKING RATHER THAN WHAT FRENCH WERE SEEKING. HE WAS OPTIMISTIC

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TIC THAT GENEVA TALKS IN JULY MAY GO WELL. ALL IN ALL, HE FELT, EC AGREED TO MANDATE OUTLINE WHEREIN THEY COULD MODIFY THE MANDATE LATER ON, AS NEGOTIATIONS PROGRESS, WITHOUT FRENCH OBSTRUCTIONISM.

10. STOESSEL ASKED HOW IRISH WOULD PARTICIPATE WITH OTHER EC MEMBERS IN DISCUSSIONS ON US- EC RELATIONS. DAVIGNON REPLIED THAT IRISH FONMIN FITZGERALD TOLD HIM THIS WEEK THAT IF IT NECESSARY TO WORK OUT EUROPEAN ATTITUDE VIS- A- VIS U. S., THEY WOULD PARTICIPATE. THEIR ONLY RESERVATION IS THAT THEY DO NOT WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN EC DISCUSSION OF NATO. ROGERS

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:**  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 JUN 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** collinp0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973STATE128098  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** GHSHEINBAUM: VE  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 BRUSSELS 3383  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** collinp0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 SEP 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2002 by collinp0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980305  
**Subject:** DAVIGNON COMMENTS ON US- EUROPE RELATIONS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, BE, XT  
**To:** N/A  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005